

[c]alcium aluminate or one or more alkali metal aluminates can optionally be included in the cement composition of this method in an amount in the range of from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of hydraulic cement in the composition.

As amended, Applicants claim a foamed cement composition having an amount of calcium aluminate cement greater than the about 5% by weight disclosed in Reddy. Furthermore, Reddy alone or in combination with Cowan or Gilbert does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against the amended claims, as there is no motivation or suggestion to modify Reddy to increase the amount of calcium aluminate in the cement composition. As disclosed at col. 4, line 65 – col. 5, line 8, Reddy discloses cement compositions including hydraulic cement (e.g., Portland cement) as the base cementitious material along with various additives to alter physical properties of the composition. Reddy further discloses that “calcium aluminate or one or more alkali metal aluminates can be added to the cement along with other additives to achieve a short transition time.” The very fact that Reddy refers to calcium aluminate as an additive along with the limitation that calcium aluminate be used in a relatively low amount of from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of hydraulic cement provides no suggestion or motivation for increasing the amount of calcium aluminate, but rather teaches against such. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion to select calcium aluminate and specifically increase the content thereof in contrast to one or more of the other alkali metal aluminates or other additives. In sum, Applicants are claiming a completely different cement system based upon calcium aluminate (in contrast to Portland or equivalent hydraulic cement disclosed in Reddy), and therefore Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 21 and 36 as amended as well as claims 22-35 and 37-40 depending therefrom are not obvious over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288.

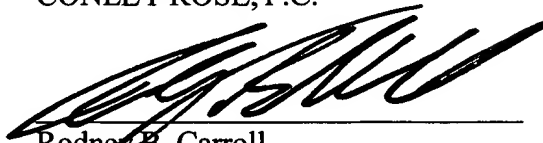
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to any fee associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 03-2769.

Respectfully submitted,

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